
**Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe, February 16,
1800, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe

Philadelphia Feb. 16. 1800.

Dear Sir

A Mr. Robinson proposing to go to Richmond with a view to establish an academy there, I have been desired to State to you his character and qualifications as I learn them from Doctr. Reynolds of this city, for I have not seen Mr. Robinson, nor is he here at present. He is a person of a regular collegiate education, of Trinity college Dublin, and has documents of his achieving double premiums every year during his scholarship there. He is of course a good latin & Greek scholar, and took his mathematical courses also but at what proficiency he made in them I could not learn. Does not read French. A man of the most excellent morals and excessive modest. He is an United Irishman and therefore was obliged to leave Ireland. He is of course a good Republican. At the request of two or three gentlemen here I promised to deposit these truths with you, that if they can be used to his advantage they may be so; in which way alone I wish you to use them not meaning to embarrass you otherwise with his pursuit. I promise to write to you by post, & that he might present himself to you. On my name as if he were the bearer of the letter. I ask for him just those attentions which may give him the credit with others that he must deserve. I do not mean necessary credit; for I believe he is without resources.

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A bill is brought into the Senate, allowing the two houses to chuse each 6 members who with the Chief Justice, are to receive the voters, certificates, & other documents of the electors of President & V.P. to shut themselves up, and to decide who is elected President. Their decision to be without appeal & Congress to have no power to dissolve them. I make neither commentary not prophecy on this. We have no further news from the French triumpherate. I hope you will be able to circumscribe the federalism of Richmond within its natural bounds of British subjects & natives. Present me affectionately to Mrs. Munroe. I believe we shall rise in April, as the Eastern men seem afraid to be together when a treaty comes from our envoys. Friendly salutations to yourself. Adieu. Th Jefferson

FC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).